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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,988	02/15/2001	Girish K. Mutreja	14699-05097	3794

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EXAMINER
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SHAHRIER, SHARIF M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2664

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/784,988	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MUTREJA, GIRISH K. <span style="float: right;">AK</span>	
	<b>Examiner</b> Sharif M Shahrier	<b>Art Unit</b> 2664	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 5-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 February 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3-17-2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Abstract***

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the presence of the title in the Abstract page. The title must be removed. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

### ***Drawings***

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: The base claim cannot be claim 2. Its assumed that "The system of clam 2 ..." should read as "The system of claim 1...". Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1, 2, 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mullan (US 5,459,717).

Regarding claim 1, Mullan illustrates a message transfer system. The router (Fig. 2 elmt 7) is the same as a switch. The "USER" (Fig. 2 elmt 2) is the same as a message source. The "USER AGENT" (Fig. 1 elmt 5) and the electronic links connecting it, combined is the same as message source links. There are multiple message source links, as depicted in Fig. 2. According to the CCITT (now ITU) standardized formats for telecommunication electronic messages, a message format is used that is compliant with a variety of user equipment (Fig. 4 col 7 ln 1-11). These message formats are used for the exchange of data between a message source and the message transfer

system, and are totally independent of the message source. The “USER AGENT” ensures that messages conform to the appropriate formats and protocols compatible with the end user (col 2ln 15-21).

Regarding claim 2, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claim 1, and Mullan further teaches multiple message source links (Fig. 1). The “USER AGENT”, a component of the message source link, issues message independent commands according to the message format in Fig. 4. These commands are utilized by the router (Fig. 2 elmt 7) to transmit messages between message sources.

Regarding claim 5, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claim 1, and Mullan further teaches a router (Fig. 2 elmt 7) to provide routing functionality in the message transfer system. The “content inspector module” with respect to claim 2, is the same as the Message Transfer Agent (MTA) (Fig. 1 elmt 6). The MTA analyzes messages and retrieves its routing information from the routing info database (Fig. 2 elmt 13). The routing information is used to transmit the message along the routing path to the message source.

Regarding claim 6, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 5 above, and Mullan further teaches a Message Transfer Agent (MTA) containing a router and an interface for communicating with other

MTAs and User Agents (UAs). A “control module” (Fig. 2 elmt 9) is coupled to the routers with the MTA to co-ordinate the activities of the Message Transfer System (MTS). The control module can issue commands for the router to route messages in a manner transparent to the MTA (col 6 ln 3-22).

Regarding claim 7, Mullan teaches a message transfer system for transferring messages in a network comprising of a plurality of message sources, where each message source is the element “USER” (Fig. 1 elmt 2). There are a plurality of message source links, comprising of “USER AGENT” (UA) (Fig. 1 elmt 5) and point-to-point electronic links. There is a router (switch) coupled to a subset of the message sources. The entire Message Transfer System (MTS) is coupled to the switch/router (Fig. 2, col 6 ln 3-10). The subscription list is represented by the “routing information database” (Fig. 2 elmt 13). This database contains the routing path table (Fig. 2 elmt 14) with formatted record entries for each user (col 6 ln 24-47).

Regarding claim 8, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claim 7, and Mullan further teaches a router (Fig. 2 elmt 7) to provide routing functionality in the message transfer system. The “content inspector module” with respect to claim 8, is the same as the Message Transfer Agent (MTA) (Fig. 1 elmt 6). The MTA analyzes messages and retrieves its routing information from the routing info database (Fig. 2 elmt 13). The routing information is used to transmit the message along the routing path to the message source.

Regarding claim 9, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claims 7 and 8, and Mullan further teaches a User Agent (UA) (Fig. 1 elmt 5) which represents the “content inspector module” with respect to claim 9. The UA ensures that messages conform to the appropriate protocol standards and formats of the end user and the telecommunication line. Thus, the UA can have the capability to transform messages from the first protocol compatible with the user device to a second protocol for the transmission line, and vice versa (col 2 ln 15-18).

Regarding claim 10, Mullan discloses all aspects of the claimed invention set forth in the rejection of claims 7 and 8, and Mullan further teaches a recipient address field (Fig. 4) which may be a single unicast address or a multicast group address. In case of multicast, the routing addresses of all the intended recipients can be accessed from the routing information database (col 6 ln 24-28). The routing path records for each end user can be accessed. Thus, the records of the recipients belonging to the multicast group can be modified.

### ***Claims Allowable***

6. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### **Conclusions**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. P.A. King, "**Receive Message processor for a Solicited Message packet transfer System**", US 4,704,717.
2. P. Hamilton, "**Computer System Including a Plurality of Nodes for transferring Through a Data transfer network Messages Having Distinguishing Fields Used for Distinguishing the Messages and Controlling Receipt Thereof**", US 6,125,399.
3. T.Takase et al., "**Connectionless Communication System**", US 5,809,012.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharif M Shahrier whose telephone number is (512) 272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.



If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (512) 273-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMS

  
RICKY NGO  
PRIMARY EXAMINER